indicated the availability of adequate quantities of potable water at various depths in all the districts. Saline ground water is generally found in the coastal districts.

(c) Central assistance to the States is given in the form of block loans and grants for the annual plan as a whole and is not tied to any particular sector of development. In addition, under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for ground water development and related activities an amount of about Rs. 1414 crores was released to the States and Union Territories during 1985—89. The year-wise and State-wise details are given in Annexures. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure Nos. 76 to 80]

Air pollution in metropolitan cities

*155. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps in the recent past to check air pollution in the metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up development and plantation of forests within the vicinity of metropolitan cities to check air pollution;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, in what manner Government propose to tackle the problem of air pollution and water conservation in the metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The steps taken by the Government to check air pollution in the metropolitan cities include the following:—

(i) Emission standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Ambient air quality standards have been evolved.

(iii) A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations has been set up.

(iv) National standards for exhaust from automobiles have been laid down for the vehicles on the road and for vehicles at manufacturing stage and enforcement procedures have been prescribed.

(v) Air pollution control areas have been notified.

(vi) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for sitting and operation of Industries.

(vii) Industries are being persuaded to comply with the consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards for emissions within the stipulated limits.

(viii) Industries have been directed to instal necessary air pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis.

(ix) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

(x) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units under the relevant Acts.

(c) and (d) The Master Plans for Metropolitan cities do provide for the creation of green belts. No separate programme has, however, been launched.

(e) Air pollution control measures are listed in penal.

(a) Water conservation measures include—

— Recycling of water for industrial, irrigation use. etc.,

— Controlled supply of potable water,

— Conjunctive use of surface and ground-water.

Aid India Consortium meet on World Bank aid to India

*156. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aid India Consortium had a meeting on the 19th and 20th June, 1989 to determine the extent of World Bank aid to be extended to India during the current year and also during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what were the proposal made to the World Bank by the Government of India in this regard and how far World Bank aid has been recommended by the Consortium and on what terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The annual Aid India Consortium Meeting was held in Paris on June 19-20, 1989 to discuss and determine the aid to be extended to India during 1989-90.

(b) It is not the practice for Government of India to make a specific reqeust in terms of a precise figure of aid as the India Consortium is a group set up at the initiative of the World Bank to consider availability of aid to India in the context of the country's requirements. The aid pledges indicated at the meeting total to about US $ 6.7 billion for 1989-90. The terms and conditions of such aid will be determined only after aid negotiations are finalized with each donor agency during the course of the year.

Strike by Lawyers

*157. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many time the lawyers throughout the country went on partial/complete strike during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what were the demands in each case and;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in consultation with the Bar Council of India to prevent disruption of judicial process in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Lawyers sometimes have gone on strike mainly on grounds relating to appointment of Presiding Officers, administrative and judicial reforms, lack of proper treatment of judicial officers, assault on lawyers, establishment of additional Courts/Benches, etc.

(c) The Law Commission of India has made certain recommendations on the subject in its 131st Report and the views of the Bar Council of India have been sought thereon.

Partial closure of economically unviable textile mills

*158. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow partial